

— Capsule Summary  
SM-522  
The Russell/Latham House  
Leonardtown  
Private

c. 1910s

The Russell/Latham house is a one-story, three bay, frame dwelling located on Washington Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. Constructed in c. 1910s, the building is a modest worker's cottage that according to Thomas Burris, current owner, could have served as an oyster shucking house.

— The house was probably constructed by Joseph S. Russell who acquired the property in 1909 from Joseph H. Key and Mattie Maddox. Purchased for \$50, the 1/8 acre property was apparently not immediately built on. The deed notes that "the said Russell binds himself, his heirs and assigns to enclose aforesaid property and maintain said enclosure around the sides bordering upon the lands of the said Key." Upon Joseph Russell's death the property was given to Elizabeth J. Latham in 1930. Elizabeth, in turn, gave the property over to Daniel and Donna M. Burris in 1986. Daniel W. and Thomas M. Burris currently own the property.

SM-522, The Russell/Latham House  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Town
Historic Function and Use:	Residence
Known Design Source:	None

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-522

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Russell/Latham/Burris House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 417 Washington Street    not for publication

city, town Leonardtown    vicinity of    congressional district 3

state Maryland    county Saint Mary's

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  X</u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<u>  X</u> building(s)	<u>  X</u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<u>  X</u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  X</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  X</u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Daniel W. and Thomas M. Burris

street & number 417 Washington Street telephone no.:(301) 475-7285

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Maryland 20650

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Saint Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 868

street & number    folio 220

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title

date    federal    state    county    local

pository for survey records

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-522

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resources: 1

The Russell/Latham house is situated on the west side of Washington Street heading south towards Leonardtown Wharf and located 0.2 miles south from the intersection of Washington Street and Court House Drive. The dwelling is on a small lot that slopes to the west and south and is bounded closely to its north and south by two-story houses, on the east by Washington Street, and on the west by a small stream.

Constructed in the 1910s, the Russell/Latham house is a three-bay, one story, frame house with a gable roof pierced by two chimney flues. The original interior contained one or two rooms, while the present house contains at least six. The house rests on a brick and formed concrete pier foundation and is sheathed with vinyl clapboard siding.

The east or primary elevation faces Washington Street and exhibits three asymmetrically placed bays--a panel door flanked on either side by a six-over-six, double-hung sash window. In front of the three bays is a screened-in porch supported on concrete piers. This elevation also exhibits a cross-gable with a pendant located at its peak. The cornice is enclosed with fascia boards and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The north elevation consists of the gable-end of the dwelling and has two, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows and a modern door located near the northwestern corner. This elevation also reveals a slight break in the pitch of the front gable roof that suggests that the house was built in more than one period. The break in pitch creates a lower sloped shed roof that continues down to another, small, shed roof addition. The peak in the gable roof, like that on the east elevation, features a pendant.

The west elevation consists mainly of the small, modern rear addition and, because of the slope sits further from the ground. It exhibits two, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows.

The south elevation consists of one, four-over-four, and two, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. It, like the north elevation, features a similar break in the roof pitch and also has a pendant at the peak of the gable roof.

Tommy Burris, the current owner, believes that the northeast corner room was the original room of the house. The alterations, however, have obscured any architectural evidence so this could not be confirmed. Judging from the roof and the brick pier foundation underneath the front part of the house, this section was most likely an early part of the house. This section consisted of two rooms with a central chimney flue that served both rooms. In the 1940s several rooms were added in the rear of the house.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-522

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Russell/Latham/Burris house, constructed in c. 1910s, represents a significant worker's cottage located in close proximity to the Leonardtown Wharf. While altered since its initial construction, the dwelling retains its three-bay fenestration, frame, chimney, original two room plan, and roof pendant. The house may also have significant associations with the local oyster industry.

The house was probably constructed by Joseph S. Russell who acquired the property in 1909 from Joseph H. Key and Mattie Maddox. Purchased for \$50, the 1/8 acre property was apparently not to be built on. The deed notes that "the said Russell binds himself, his heirs and assigns to enclose aforesaid property and maintain said enclosure around the sides bordering upon the lands of the said Key." According to Thomas Burris, the current owner, the building could have served as an oyster shucking house during this time. An advertisement in the September 21, 1899 St. Mary's Beacon, apparently confirms this as it notes that locals could "Buy....oysters from Joseph Russell at 80 cents a gallon." Upon Joseph Russell's death the property was given to Elizabeth J. Latham in 1930. Elizabeth, in turn, gave the property over to Daniel and Donna M. Burris in 1986. Daniel W. and Thomas M. Burris currently own the property. Tommy Burris lived in the house his entire life and remembers how the family used to keep their horses fenced in their yard. The house and property encapsulates, therefore, the rich diversity of land use during the early and mid-twentieth century in Leonardtown.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-522

Burris, Thomas. Personal Interview, August 1996.

Saint Mary's Beacon. Vol. 60, 1154, p. 3, September 21, 1899.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/8 acreQuadrangle name LeonardtownQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed reference

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoningdate October 1996street & number 328 Washington Streettelephone (301) 475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

SM-522, The Russell/Latham House  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: EWA Liber 868, Folio 220

Grantee: Daniel W. and Thomas M. Burris

Grantor: Daniel W. Burris and Donna M. Burris

Date: February 22, 1994

Note: The property contains 1/8 of an acre and contains 55 feet of road frontage on Washington Street leading from the Courthouse to Leonardtown Wharf

Reference: MRB Liber 311, Folio 253

Grantee: Daniel W. And Donna Burris

Grantor: Elizabeth J. Latham

Date: September, 1986

Reference: JMM Liber 7, Folio 2

Grantee: Elizabeth J. Latham

Grantor: Joseph S. Russell, (unmarried) Martin Russell, James B. Russell

Date: March 28, 1930

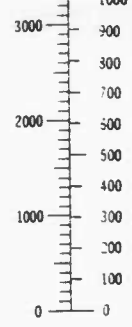
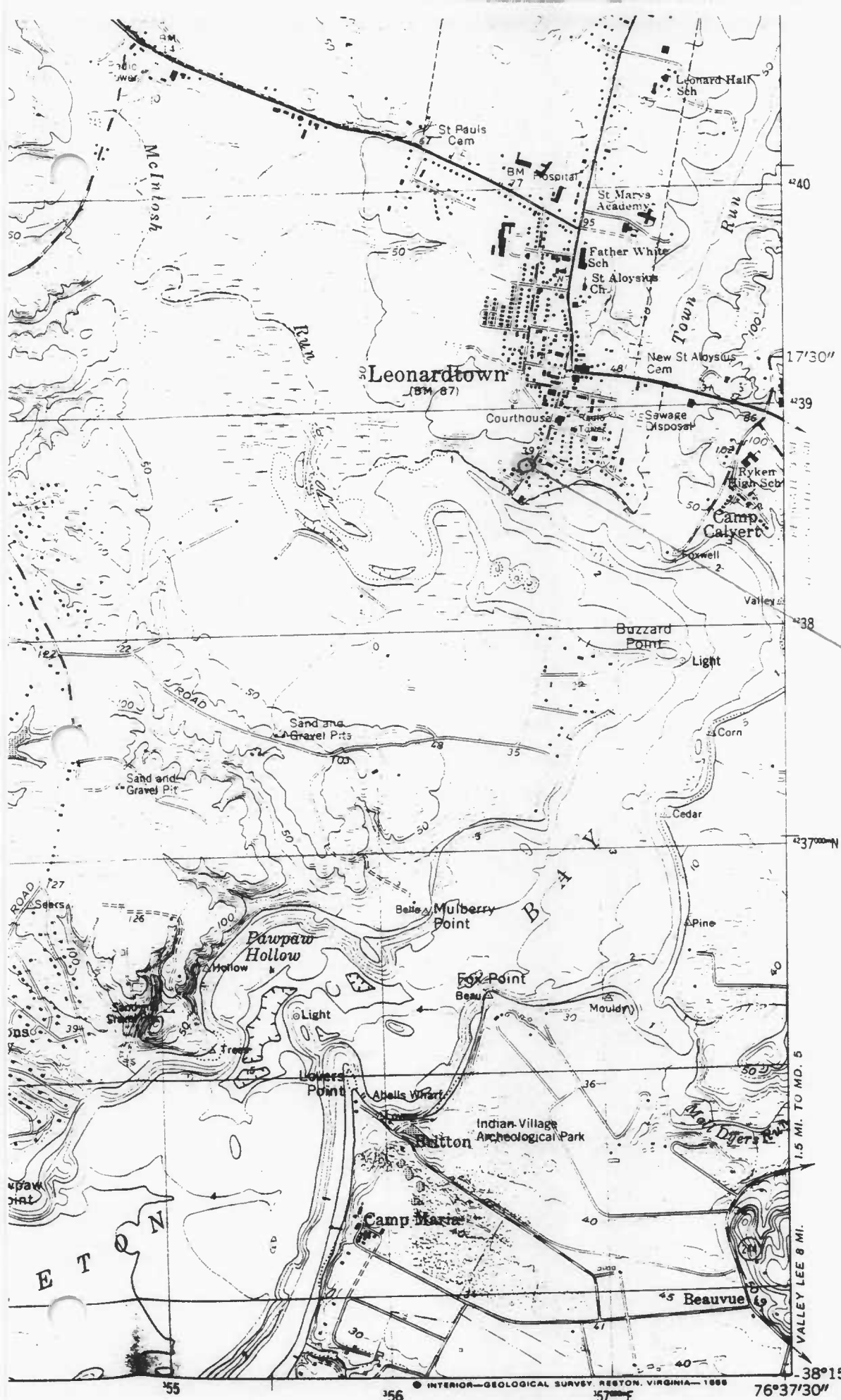
Reference: EBA Liber 7, Folio 456

Grantee: Joseph Spalding Russell

Grantor: Joseph H. and Mattie Maddox Key

Date: March 26, 1909

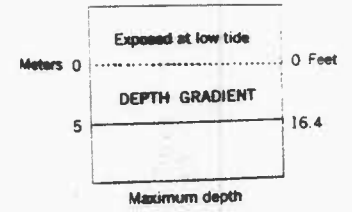
Note: The property was purchased for \$50 and included 1/8 acre. The grantee was also bound "to enclose aforesaid property and maintain said enclosure around the sides bordering upon the lands of the said Key." Unfortunately, no further deed reference is provided.



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	5096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048  
 To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

SM-522



LEONARDTOWN, MD.  
 SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
 38076-C6-TB-024

1963  
 BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982  
 PHOTOREVISED 1984  
 DMA 5660 I SW - SERIES V833

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty Light-duty

(PIN-Y POINT 8880 11)









